Coastwise Clues

Use text structure and questions to make sense of an informational passage.

6.DSR.E "Use reading strategies as needed to aid and monitor comprehension when encountering challenging sections of text. These sense-making strategies attend to text structure, common organizational structures, summarizing..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each paragraph's most important idea, circle words that show how ideas connect or shift, and number the steps in any process. These marks will help you notice the text's structure and check your understanding as you read.

Building a Stronger Coast

1 Along the coast of Louisiana, wetlands help soften the force of storms. Their grasses and muddy soil hold water, slowing waves before they reach homes and roads. However, many wetlands are shrinking. Sea-level rise pushes salt water farther inland, while canals cut for shipping can let water move through marshes more quickly. When land washes away, the remaining plants have less protected ground on which to grow. This loss can make coastal communities more vulnerable during hurricanes.

2 To rebuild a damaged marsh, workers sometimes create oyster reefs first. They place recycled oyster shells in long, low rows near an eroding shoreline. The shells give young oysters a hard surface where they can attach. As oysters grow, their reef breaks up incoming waves. Calmer water allows mud and bits of plant material to settle behind the reef. Then marsh grasses can spread into the new soil, and their roots help keep it from washing away.

3 Scientists monitor restored areas for years because a new reef does not solve every problem at once. They measure how fast the shoreline changes and count the kinds of animals living nearby. For example, fish and crabs may use the reef as shelter, but a strong storm can still damage it. If the reef remains stable and plants continue to spread, the project is more likely to protect the coast over time. In this way, restoration combines several small changes rather than one instant fix.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a one-sentence gist of paragraph 1. Include both the benefit wetlands provide and the problem they face.

2. Which organizational structure best fits paragraph 2, sequence or compare-and-contrast? Cite two details that support your choice.

3. What does the word However signal in paragraph 1? Explain the shift in ideas.

4. Write one question that paragraph 3 answers about how scientists judge a restoration project. Then answer your question using the paragraph.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one paragraph that made you slow down. In exactly three sentences, name its organizational structure, write a 20- to 30-word gist, and ask and answer one question that helped you understand it.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each paragraph's most important idea, circle words that show how ideas connect or shift, and number the steps in any process. These marks will help you notice the text's structure and check your understanding as you read. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write a one-sentence gist of paragraph 1. Include both the benefit wetlands provide and the problem they face.	**Louisiana wetlands slow storm waves, but their loss leaves coastal communities more vulnerable to hurricanes.**
2	Which organizational structure best fits paragraph 2, sequence or compare-and-contrast? Cite two details that support your choice.	**Paragraph 2 uses sequence: workers first place shell rows, then oysters grow, and then grasses spread into the new soil.**
3	What does the word However signal in paragraph 1? Explain the shift in ideas.	**However signals a contrast between wetlands helping protect the coast and wetlands shrinking.**
4	Write one question that paragraph 3 answers about how scientists judge a restoration project. Then answer your question using the paragraph.	**Sample answer: What signs show that a project may protect the coast over time? Scientists look for a stable reef and spreading plants.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The third paragraph uses cause and effect to explain why monitoring matters. Scientists track shoreline change, animals, reef stability, and plant growth because these signs show whether the restoration is likely to protect the coast over time. I asked what can still happen after restoration, and the passage explains that a strong storm can damage the reef.

Accept accurate gists that include the central ideas without copying whole sentences. For the student-created questions, accept any clear question whose answer is supported by the selected paragraph.